

qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Ryan has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Russell Donaldson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT F. NOLAN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert F. Nolan, a man who has made service to our community his pride and his life's work. In his capacity as an advisor to three Bronx Borough presidents during some of the most turbulent times our city has ever witnessed, time and again Bob was confronted with singular challenges that would have reduced a lesser figure to despair and resignation. Instead Bob rose to the occasion, time and time again. He took part in some of the most momentous decisions that could confront a public official, and he did so with poise, clarity of purpose, and unusual dedication. Bob has been one of the truest and finest examples of a public servant who never gave up on the Bronx, but instead continued to serve through the hardest of times. He committed himself at a young age to improving his beloved community, and has had the endurance and strength of character to spend a lifetime in pursuit of this goal. While many have come and gone, Bob has never left the Bronx—and the Bronx cannot possibly forget that fact.

Born in Westchester Square Hospital, Bob Nolan was educated at Our Lady of Solace School in Morris Park and then Fordham University. A community and political activist since the early 1970s, he began his career as an instructor at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Later, he moved on to the mayor's office of economic development, where he was in charge of the business action center. In January 1979, Bob joined the office of the Bronx Borough president as director of economic development. He quickly set in motion the plan which led to the creation of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation in 1980.

The 1980s were a critical period for the Bronx. The previous two decades saw the quality of life in the Bronx dramatically diminish. A widespread deterioration was underway, as the city suffered the aftermath of a painful fiscal collapse. Some neighborhoods felt the hurt more than others, but few felt it worse than the South Bronx. This was the climate in which Bob began his journey to restore our borough's greatness.

This was no easy task. At the time, private and public disinvestment had taken a huge toll on many Bronx neighborhoods. But these circumstances neither deterred nor discouraged

Bob. Perhaps his work is best judged by the vitality we have witnessed in our borough in recent years. Across the board, the Bronx has undergone a remarkable transformation—and credit should rightly be given to the sound fiscal and public investment policies first championed by Bob and his colleagues at the very dawn of our borough's resurgence. His thoughtful planning and careful stewardship helped pave the way for innumerable capital projects and a wholesale restoration of confidence in the borough on the part of the city's business community. Bob helped demonstrate that the Bronx was once again a fertile place for investment.

In the 1990s, Bob was appointed budget director for the borough, a position he held until the day he retired—November 14, 2008. His role as budget director required Bob to recommend capital projects to the borough president and help shape budgets and establish spending priorities that furthered past efforts and blazed new paths toward economic revival. We will undoubtedly continue to see the fruits of Bob's labor for many years to come.

Looking back at this extraordinary life of service, what is unique about Bob Nolan's story is the completeness of it. Three decades ago, Bob set out to make the Bronx a better place, working tirelessly from within the halls of government. These many years later, he retires with that goal now very much in his sights. He has had many different responsibilities over the years, but the same motivating factor: a love for his borough and its people. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Robert F. Nolan, a man who loves his hometown fiercely and whose whole life is a unique testament to civic duty.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF FRED STERN

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the heroic and distinguished actions of Fred Stern of Aberdeen, South Dakota, who will be honored with several long-overdue medals, including the Bronze Star Medal, for his service during World War II.

Fred was born near Webster, South Dakota, on October 21, 1908. He was inducted into the U.S. Army at Ft. Snelling, Minnesota, on June 10, 1942, and received his basic training at Camp Rucker, Alabama. Fred served in World War II's Pacific Theater from 1942 to 1945. He was a member of the 322nd Regiment Combat Team of the 81st Infantry, Wildcats, Division in the battle for the Palau Islands.

The 322nd participated in the famed assault on the small island of Anguar—a hard-fought battle against the island's Japanese occupants. For his dedicated service, Fred received the Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star, and the Combat Infantry Badge. After the war, he returned to South Dakota where he farmed, worked for the Brown County Implement, and as a painter before retiring.

Madam Speaker, I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my gratitude to Mr. Fred

Stern and congratulate his receipt of the Bronze Star Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Service Stars and one Bronze Arrowhead, and the Army of Occupation Medal with Japan Clasp.

We are all proud and thankful for all that he has done in the service of the United States of America. The lives of countless people have been enormously enhanced by his compassion and service. Fred represents the best of the United States, South Dakota, and the Army. He continues to inspire all those who know him and hear his story of sacrifice. Our Nation and the State of South Dakota are far better places because of his service, and the best way to honor him is to emulate his devotion to our country.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my appreciation to Fred. His commitment to and sacrifice for our Nation will never be forgotten.

HONORING SPENCER JOSEPH FISH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Spencer Joseph Fish of Liberty, Missouri. Spencer is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1376, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Spencer has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Spencer has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Spencer Joseph Fish for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO RICK STAATS

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Rick Staats, a man whose passion and energy for conservative principles in northern California have made a great contribution to the region.

Rick was born on August 1, 1943, in Berkeley, CA, where he grew up. After graduating from Berkeley High School, Rick left California to attend the University of Oregon.

After college, Rick returned to California and became active in politics. While living in the Bay Area, Rick served as the Alameda County chairman for the U.S. Senate campaign of then-State Senator H.L. Richardson. Rick was also an alternate delegate for the 1976 Republican National Convention in Kansas City. Rick's political activism eventually led him to Sacramento in 1978. At that time, Rick and I served together on the staff of Senator Richardson, and 2 years later Rick was an integral

part of my successful campaign for the California State Senate.

Rick worked for me in many capacities throughout my tenure in the state Senate, including as my district director. When I was elected to U.S. Congress in 1990, Rick chose to remain active in California politics. He served as chief of staff to Assemblyman David Knowles and as a consultant for the Republican caucus in the assembly.

While working in the California State Legislature, Rick remained active in volunteer organizations in California. He served as the statewide president of the California Republican Assembly, chairman of the Placer County Republican Party, credentials chairman for the California Republican Party, and in other important roles for groups that were advocating the conservative principles to which Rick has always been committed.

In 2004, Rick left California to retire in Idaho. Though he is retired, Rick remains active in politics and in public service. He currently sits on the board of directors for the Cabinet Mountains Water District and is still an important figure in California politics. I am pleased to have known Rick for many years as a colleague, a member of my staff, and a friend. I would like to express my gratitude to him for his work over the years for me and for the many causes he has championed, and I wish him all the very best in the future.

“KEVIN STOKESBURY—FRIEND OF
THE FISHERMEN”

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on the last weekend of September of this year, I was supposed to be at the Fishermen's Festival in New Bedford, an event I always enjoy and which I look forward to attending. Instead, as you know, I was here in Washington, D.C. as we were working to try and put the \$700 billion credit system rescue plan into final form.

Among the events I missed at that festival was the awarding of the 2008 Friend of the Fishermen Award to Kevin Stokesbury. Dr. Stokesbury chairs the Department of Fisheries Oceanography at SMAST—the extremely important and valuable part of the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, which studies the fishing industry.

He received this award from the people in the fishing industry of New Bedford because of the high quality of the work he has done to provide the kind of first-rate scientific information that is so essential to the continued survival of the fishing industry. One of the great successes—probably the greatest success—we have seen in regulation of the fishing industry in New England is with the scallop fishery, and no one is more responsible for this success than Kevin Stokesbury.

Madam Speaker, because Kevin Stokesbury's work shows that it is possible to support a thriving fishery in an environmentally responsible way, it is particularly noteworthy that he received this award from the fishing industry of New Bedford—the most important fishing port in America. I ask that the explanation by the fishing industry of this award to Kevin Stokesbury be printed here.

INTRODUCTION OF 2008'S “FRIEND OF THE
FISHERMEN”

This year's recipient of “The Friend of the Fishing Industry Award” needs no introduction to most of the NB fishing industry, particularly the scallop fishermen. It took him a while to find his way here to us as he seems to have taken a long way around, but he now lives in Westport with his wife Shawna, & four children; Kasey, Tyrez, Taysia, & Henry.

Starting with his B.Sc. & M.Sc. both of which he earned at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, he then received his PhD in Marine Ecology from Universite Laval, Quebec City, Quebec in 1994.

He worked as a Research Assistant 1994–1996 at the Center for Marine Science Research at the U. of NC at Wilmington before moving to the U of Alaska Fairbanks, as a Research Assistant from September 1996–1998.

Ten years ago in September 1998 he finally found his way here when he joined SMAST at U MASS, Dartmouth as an Associate Fellow. In September 2000 he became an Associate Professor. In September 2005 he became the Chair of the Department of Fisheries Oceanography. Do you sense a trend here?

In 1999 Kevin conceived a plan to videotape & map the seafloor; the resulting survey would actually count scallops with the intention of determining the size of the biomass. He got together with a few scallop vessel owners & others from the industry, & as they say, “the rest is history”.

Kevin & his associates from his lab at SMAST have probably logged more sea-time than a lot of fishermen over these past 9 or 10 years. They have completed more than 100 video cruises surveying Georges Bank & the Mid-Atlantic fishing grounds; this is more than 600 DAS. Their video library consisting of footage from more than 200,000 video samples has been used in every scallop fisheries management plan since 1999.

Today this work has become much more detailed & expansive & it now must be acclaimed as some of the leading environmental work regarding sea floor habitat, & the marine benthic community.

Not surprisingly, Kevin's work has not received the same acclaim from many of his peers that it has from the fishing industry & his associates. This unique cooperative research that has existed between the fishing industry, Kevin & SMAST since its inception, has turned much of the “Old Science” on its ear, & some did not take kindly to that. Without this “New Science”, it's possible that we still would not be scalloping in the Closed Areas!

As Chair of the Department of Fisheries & Oceanography, Kevin's oversight now includes along with scallops; groundfish, lobster & marine environments. Perhaps even more importantly, he is now fostering a new generation of marine scientists & researchers who, if the fishing industry is lucky, will follow the path that Kevin has so brightly blazed!

It gives me great pleasure to present “The Friend of the Fishermen's Award” to someone I'm proud to call my friend; Dr. Kevin D.E. Stokesbury.

HONORING DRU RYAN JORDAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dru Ryan Jordan of Platte City, Missouri. Dru is a very special young

man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dru has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Dru has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dru Ryan Jordan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sixty years since its inception, the Declaration of Human Rights continues to be a foundation for the protection of rights and a statement to the world that human rights abuse is an abomination of the human race.

On December 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The declaration was established from the horrific religious and racial bigotry of World War II. The declaration represented the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled. This declaration expresses to the world that human rights are not just a principle for the few, the wealthy, or for those who live in economically developed nations—human rights are universal and for all humankind.

Today, we still live in a world where people murder their neighbors over religion, the color of their skin, and national ideologies. This is unacceptable. It is my hope that we as a world of nations can settle our differences through dialogue and treat our fellow man with dignity and respect.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL
DELILAH R. WORKS

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 9, 2008

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of her promotion to the rank of Brigadier General to honor and congratulate Delilah R. Works for her many years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee, the Tennessee Air National Guard, and to our Nation.

General Works earned her commission through Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in April 1980. In the years that followed, she distinguished herself in assignments in the Air Force and the Air National Guard that took her from Alaska to